It was remarked in the last Administration Report that the correctness of the average assessment which was given as Rs. 2-7-2 per acre of wet land was open to doubt. From statistics collected in regard to six of the settled taluks it is observed that the average per acre of Pandarapattom or Sirkar lands varies from Rs. 21–as. 2 in Tovala and Rs. 19–as. 9 in Agastisvaram to Rs. 3–as. 12 in Nedumangad and Rs. 3–as. 10 in Kartigapally. The average for all the six taluks taken together is Rs. 8–as. 8 per acre. It will thus be seen that the incidence of taxation in Travancore is not so light as is generally believed to be the case. These figures relate only to the six settled taluks for which the information is available and a correct average can be obtained only when the whole State is settled.

The aggregate receipts under Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 22,99,320 and the expenditure to Rs. 7,16,113 against Rs. 23,88,994 and Rs. 6,51,602 respectively in 1079.

Of the 30,684 puduval cases, 11,165 cases or 36 per cent were disposed of, while the disposals under escheat and other revenue cases numbered 757 out of 2,547 or 29 per cent. There were 1,855 and 578 cases under the Poramboke and Land Acquisition Regulations of which 1,763 and 474 or 95 and 82 per cent respectively were disposed of. Out of 21,623 cases of transfer of registry, 15,797 cases or 73 per cent were disposed of.

145 appeals from the decisions of the Peishkars in revenue cases were heard and disposed of by the Dewan during the year, 5 of them having been remanded for further enquiry.

In view of the failure of crops on account of the drought which prevailed the ryots of some of the taluks were permitted, as a measure of relief, to pay the paddy portion of the tax at the favourable rate of 10 chs. per parah.

The question of converting the grain tax on wet lands into money tax which was brought forward at the last meeting of this Assembly has undergone considerable discussion during the year and every effort is being made to arrive at a satisfactory solution as early as circumstances would permit.

3. **Survey.**—The boundary demarcation and survey of Kondur Proverty in Meenachil Taluk, an area of 127 square miles, was done during the year, thus completing the process of cadastral survey of all the 31 taluks of the State. The field survey of all the 31 taluks but one village has also been completed. Village maps of Muvattupula and Todupula were lithographed.

Survey School.—65 Government employés and 132 private students passed out of the Survey School during the year. The school is doing useful work in supplying trained men for work in the Land Revenue Department.

4. **Revenue Settlement.**—Last year I gave you the outlines of the new scheme that had been sanctioned by His Highness for bringing settlement operations which had been unnecessarily protracted and had cost the State an enormous amount of money to a speedy and satisfactory close. You will be gratified to hear that the anticipations formed last year have to a very great extent been realized. The experience gained during the past year has brought to light many irregularities of procedure and heavy arrears of work during the preliminary stages which had not been taken into account when the forecast was framed in September 1904. But these will be considered when a revised forecast now under preparation is adopted. It is believed that, on the

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